

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 HA-05 NEAE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00

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AID-05 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /105 W

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O 261255Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3815

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION SINAI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 8030

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 3)

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ON GOI CABINET REJECTION

1. ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS ON JUNE 26 HEADLINE THE GOI CABINET REJECTION OF EGYPT'S LATEST PEACE PROPOSAL. THE CABINET'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE PROPOSAL AS AN ADVANCEMENT OF PRECONDITIONS TO NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDES THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF THE PRESS REPORTS.

2. DAVAR (BLOCH), IN A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE, REPORTS THAT  
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POLITICAL OBSERVERS EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT AT THE RAPIDITY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO WHAT IS NOT YET AN OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, THE JERUSALEM POST (LANDAU, BRILLIANT, AND SAFADI) SAY THAT CABINET SOURCES EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PURPOSE WAS TO STEM WHAT IS REGARDED AS AN EGYPTIAN "NON-STARTER" PROPOSAL BEFORE IT TOOK ROOT IN PUBLIC CON-

SCIOUSNESS, PARTICULARLY IN THE WESTERN WORLD. THE POST CLAIMS THAT THE IMPENDING VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO THE REGION AND CURRENT AMERICAN EFFORTS TO REVIVE THE PEACE PROCESS WERE ALSO CONSIDERATIONS WHICH THE CABINET TOOK INTO ACCOUNT IN ITS DECISION TO IMMEDIATELY REJECT THE EGYPTIAN PLAN IN PUBLIC.

3. HAARETZ (BENZIMAN) ASSERTS THAT MINISTER LANDAU PROPOSED THAT, IN VIEW OF EGYPTIAN INTRANSIGENCE, ISRAEL SHOULD RETRACT ITS PEACE PLAN AND AUTONOMY PROPOSAL. BENZIMAN CLAIMS THAT, AFTER CHARACTERIZING SADAT'S REMARKS AS PRECONDITIONS TO NEGOTIATIONS WHICH DISREGARDED THE EXISTENCE OF THE AUTONOMY PLAN, BEGIN REJECTED LANDAU'S PROPOSAL, RECOMMENDING INSTEAD THAT THE CABINET CONCENTRATE ON THE EGYPTIAN PLAN. HE PROPOSED THAT A CABINET STATEMENT BE ISSUED WHICH REJECTED SADAT'S APPROACH. BENZIMAN SAYS A NUMBER OF MINISTERS BRIEFLY EXPRESSED THEIR DOUBT THAT THERE WAS ANY REASON TO ISSUE A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED TO BEGIN'S PROPOSAL. BENZIMAN CLAIMS THAT THE DECISION TO ISSUE THE STATEMENT WAS MEANT TO SIGNAL TO EGYPT AND THE US THAT ISRAEL SEES NO BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION IN THE SADAT PROPOSAL.

4. ACCORDING TO THE POST REPORTERS, DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN IS UNHAPPY AGAIN WITH THE CABINET'S HARDLINE  
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STANCE. BUT HE KEPT HIS PEACE THIS TIME, APPARENTLY INTENT ON MAINTAINING A LOW PROFILE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, UNTIL THE FUROR CREATED BY HIS OUTBURSTS LAST WEEK HAS SUBSIDED. THEY NOTE THAT THE CABINET DECISION WAS CARRIED WITHOUT A VOTE.

5. IN A SEPARATE POST ARTICLE, BRILLIANT REPORTS - THAT MK ZALMAN SHOMAL (LIKUD), A KEY ADVISOR TO DAYAN, SAID THAT EGYPT'S PROPOSALS ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA PUT AN END TO HOPE THAT A PEACE AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH CAIRO WITHOUT AMERICAN INTERVENTION. HOWEVER, HAARETZ SAYS THAT DURING THE DRAFTING OF THE CABINET RESPONSE TO THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL, DAYAN EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO REFRAIN FROM GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOI IS DENYING SADAT HIS RIGHT TO SUBMIT ANY PEACE PROPOSALS HE SEES FIT, PROVIDED SUCH PROPOSALS DO NOT SET PRECONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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